

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A polymer compound comprising a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain,
wherein all hydrogen atoms on the ring of the alicyclic group are fluorinated and the alicyclic group has a transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$.

26. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 25, wherein the alicyclic group is a polycyclic group.

27. (New) A polymer compound comprising a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain,
wherein the alicyclic group is highly fluorinated and has transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ and, wherein the alicyclic group has a hydrophilic group on a ring.

28. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 26, wherein the polycyclic group is an adamantyl group.

29. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 25, wherein the monomeric unit is a unit derived from acrylic ester or methacrylic ester.

30. (New) A polymer compound comprising a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain,
wherein the alicyclic group is highly fluorinated and has transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ and, wherein the monomeric unit is a unit derived from vinyl ether.

31. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 25, further comprising a second monomeric unit.

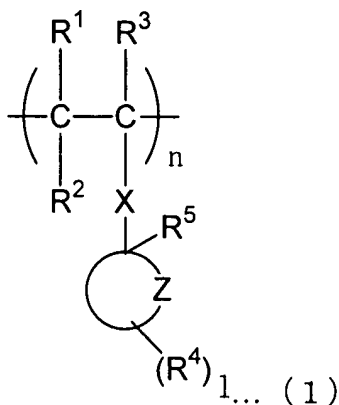
32. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 31, wherein the second monomeric unit has an acid dissociable group.

33. (New) A polymer compound comprising a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain,
wherein the alicyclic group is highly fluorinated and has transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$, further comprising a second monomeric unit, wherein the second monomeric unit has an insoluble group in acid.

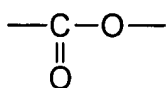
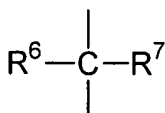
34. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 31, wherein the second monomeric group is a monomeric unit derived from acrylic ester or methacrylic ester.

35. (New) A polymer compound comprising a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain,
wherein the alicyclic group is highly fluorinated and has transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$, further comprising a second monomeric unit wherein the second monomeric unit is a monomeric unit derived from vinylic double bond.

36. (New) A polymer compound having a monomeric unit represented by general formula (1)



where n is an integer; X is an ester group of carboxylic acid,

ether group (-O-), -CH₂-O-, or an alkylidene group,

Z enclosed by a circle is a highly fluorinated adamantyl group; R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl group, fluorine atom, and fluorinated lower alkyl group; l is an integer of 0 to 3; and R⁴ is a hydroxyl group,

and having transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$.

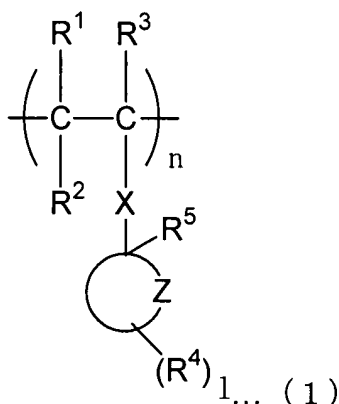
37. (New) The polymer compound according to claim 36, wherein the adamantyl group is a perfluoroadamantyl group.

38. (New) A resist composition comprising a polymer compound having a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain, wherein all hydrogen atoms on the ring of the alicyclic group are fluorinated and said polymer compound has a transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$.

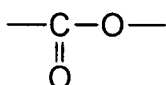
39. (New) The resist composition according to claim 38, comprising the polymer compound as a base polymer.

40. (New) The resist composition according to claim 38, comprising the polymer compound as a dissolution inhibitor agent.

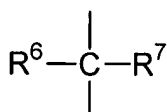
41. (New) A resist composition comprising a polymer compound having a monomeric unit represented by general formula (1)



where n is an integer; X is an ester group of carboxylic acid,



ether group (-O-), -CH₂-O-, or an alkylidene group,



Z enclosed by a circle is a highly fluorinated adamantyl group; R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl group, fluorine atom, and fluorinated lower alkyl group; l is an integer of 0 to 3; and R⁴ is a hydroxyl group;

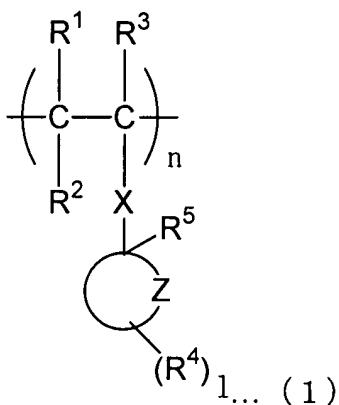
and having a transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than 3.0 μm⁻¹.

42. (New) The resist composition according to claim 41, comprising the polymer compound as a base polymer.

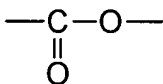
43. (New) The resist composition according to claim 41, comprising the polymer compound as a dissolution inhibitor agent.

44. (New) A resist dissolution inhibitor agent comprising a polymer compound having a monomeric unit having an alicyclic group at a side chain, wherein all hydrogen atoms on the ring of the alicyclic group are fluorinated and said polymer compound has transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength, represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$.

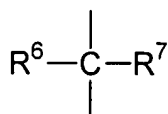
45. (New) A resist dissolution inhibitor agent comprising a polymer compound having a monomeric unit represented by general formula (1)



where n is an integer; X is an ester group of carboxylic acid,



ether group (-O-), -CH₂-O-, or an alkylidene group,



Z enclosed by a circle is a highly fluorinated adamantyl group; R¹, R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl group, fluorine atom, and fluorinated lower alkyl group; l is an integer of 0 to 3; and R⁴ is a hydroxyl group,

and having a transparency to light of 157 nanometer wavelength represented by an adsorption coefficient equal to or less than $3.0 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$.